

work. Their businesses not only effectively serve the gay community, but they also contribute to the multicultural and welcoming environment that has been critical to the growth and development of Ann Arbor. It is my hope that Mr. Contreras and Mr. Orr will remain active in promoting the values of tolerance and respect. Their leadership has effectively served the city's residents.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the Keith Orr and Martin Contreras for their success in business and impactful leadership in the community. Their success and activism are worthy of commendation, and it is my hope that they continue to play a leading role in the Ann Arbor community in the years ahead.

CONGRATULATING SOKA GAKKAI
INTERNATIONAL

HON. MARC A. VEASEY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 30, 2016

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Soka Gakkai International (SGI), the Buddhist association of more than 12 million people, on celebrating 86 years since its founding.

On November 18, 1930, Tsunesaburo Makiguchi and Josei Toda founded the Soka Gakkai in Tokyo, Japan to spread the Buddhist ideals of equality, respect for all life and the connection of self and the environment. Makiguchi served as the first president of The Soka Gakkai and was succeeded by Toda as the second Soka Gakkai president. With the desire to further spread Buddhist philosophy across the world, Daisaku Ikeda founded Soka Gakkai International while he served as the third president of Soka Gakkai.

Today, Ikeda and the other founding presidents' work is evident in the 12 million individuals in 192 countries and territories who share the same beliefs and mission the founders established years ago. Most notably, the American branch of Soka Gakkai International is the largest and most diverse Buddhist community in the United States with 350,000 members organized in more than 500 chapters nationwide. In combination with its 100 centers, the members all actively engage in the promotion of sustainable living, human rights, and peace.

November the 18th has come to symbolize a day when each SGI member strengthens their own determination and sense of responsibility to be ambassadors of goodwill in the communities they serve. In the DFW Metroplex, members of Soka Gakkai International provide enormous contributions to the community they serve where their members are making individual contributions for peace and freedom.

I honor Soka Gakkai International's 86th anniversary celebration and for their lifetime commitment to peace.

CONGRATULATIONS TO SWI INDUSTRIAL
SOLUTIONS FOR BEING
AWARDED THE FOUNDER AWARD
DEVELOPER OF THE YEAR

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 30, 2016

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate SWI Industrial Solutions, an outstanding non-profit that provides more than 200 individuals with disabilities meaningful and dignified work, while expanding the work forces of other manufacturers. SWI Industrial Solutions was recognized by the Missouri Association of Manufacturers (MAM) and given the Founders Award for their 50 years of business in the Springfield community.

The Founder's award honors MAM founder, the late Jack T. Gentry, and is presented to select MAM member companies that preserve the manufacturing tradition and promote and advance manufacturing in Missouri.

In these 50 years, SWI Industrial Solutions has directly impacted the local economy in a positive way and has given countless individuals the confidence and training on how to be a good employee, and how to succeed at their jobs.

It is my honor to recognize SWI Industrial Solutions for this great achievement and wish its workers a joyous and well-earned celebration of their success. By creating jobs, delivering top-class products, and exhibiting exemplary work ethic for 50 years, SWI Industrial Solutions have made southwest Missouri a better place to live. It makes me proud to serve them, and all of Missouri's Seventh Congressional District.

HONORING CAREGIVERS OUT-
REACH MINISTRY EMPOWER-
MENT INC. 10TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 30, 2016

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Caregivers Outreach Ministry Empowerment Inc. (C.O.M.E.) a remarkable organization in New York City that for 10 years has empowered family caregivers with accessible resources and knowledge to make comfortable choices and decisions that will have a positive impact upon the quality of life for themselves and their loved ones.

A family caregiver, sometimes called an informal caregiver is an unpaid individual—a spouse, partner, family member, friend co-worker or neighbor—assisting others with activities of daily living and/or medical tasks. In New York City, 1.25 million family caregivers provide over one billion hours of unpaid care to elderly loved ones. Nationally, there are approximately 1.3 to 1.4 million-child caregivers who are between the ages of 8 and 18 providing care to a family member. Youth caregivers are often called a “hidden population,” because they suffer from a systemic lack of support from their schools and communities.

Since its founding in 2006 by Diane Leona Cooper, C.O.M.E. has worked to educate,

equip and empower community leaders with the tools to develop and implement the C.O.M.E. Outreach Support Model. The group has collaborated with a wide array of elected officials and organizations to advocate for family caregivers, and the work they have done in the community has been nothing short of remarkable.

As C.O.M.E. celebrates its 10th anniversary, I want to take the opportunity to thank their leadership team and staff for all of the good works they have done. It is wonderful to know I have such an amazing partner fighting for families in the community.

HONORING CHRIS GEORGE, RECIPIENT OF THE 2016 WILLARD M. MCCRAE COMMUNITY DIVERSITY AWARD

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 30, 2016

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise today to join family, friends, and colleagues in extending my heartfelt congratulations to Chris George, Executive Director of Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services (IRIS), as he is honored by Liberty Bank with their 2016 Willard M. McCrae Community Diversity Award.

Named in honor of Willard McCrae, past chairman of the Liberty Bank Board of Directors and founding member of the Liberty Bank Foundation Board of Directors, this annual award honors an individual who has made an “outstanding and ongoing contribution to the cause of promoting and celebrating diversity in the communities served by Liberty Bank.” I can think of no one more deserving of such a recognition than Chris George.

Chris has dedicated a lifetime to promoting human rights, social justice and equal access to all. He began his career as a Peace Corps volunteer in the Sultanate of Oman and later worked with Quakers in Lebanese villages and refugee camps. He worked with Save the Children, primarily in the West Bank/Gaza Strip, was the director of the Middle East division of Human Rights Watch, and he directed the legislative strengthening project for the Palestinian Parliament during his tenure with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

He continued that unique dedication here in Connecticut through his work at IRIS and it is that good work that has earned him this very special honor. As the Executive Director, it has been through Chris' leadership that IRIS has grown into one of the most respected, vibrant refugee resettlement programs in Connecticut. Welcoming refugees from Somali, Iraq, Congo, Sudan, Cuba, and Columbia, IRIS has helped many families navigate the many difficulties associated with resettling in a new community, country, and culture.

From the time of its founding, our nation has welcomed those from other shores, particularly those whose own home countries have become too dangerous for them to stay. Whether boarding the Mayflower to escape religious persecution or fleeing from the many countries that are today caught in the midst of civil war, America has long been a safe haven for many. Chris has long championed the contributions refugees make to our communities